



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/529,394	03/28/2005	Pilgrim Giles William Beart	P08594US00/RFH	6724
881 7590 07/10/2008 STITES & HARBISON PLLC 1199 NORTH FAIRFAX STREET SUITE 900 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER MURALIDAR, RICHARD V	
			ART UNIT 2838	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 07/10/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/529,394

**Applicant(s)**

BEART ET AL.

**Examiner**

RICHARD V. MURALIDAR

**Art Unit**

2838

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 March 2008.  
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 17, 18, 21, 23-35, 38, 40-44, 61, 72-87 and 90-96 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☒ Claim(s) 42-44 and 93-95 is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 17, 18, 21, 23-35, 38, 40, 41, 61, 72-87, 90-92 and 96 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 December 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-946)  
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 05/20/2008  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

DETAILED ACTION

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 17-18, 21, 23-31, 32-35, 38, 40-41, 61, 72-87, 90-92 and 96 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sabo [U.S. 6,803,744].

With respect to independent claims 17, 32, 61, 72, 84, and 96, Sabo discloses a primary unit [Fig. 1, 2] for use in a power transfer system [Fig. 1; col. 2 lines 45-52] that has a plurality of portable electrical or electronic devices of different types [Fig. 1, 14, 18; col. 1 lines 59-64], the devices being separable from the primary unit and adapted to receive power from the primary unit by inductive coupling when the devices are placed on or in proximity to the primary unit [col. 1 lines 25-30; col. 2 lines 1-3], the primary unit comprising: a power transfer surface [Fig. 1, 4]; and an inductive power supply [Fig. 1, 10, 6] which supplies power inductively [col. 2 lines 54-60]; the primary unit being arranged such that at least two said devices of different types [Fig. 1, 14, 18; col. 1 lines 59-64] can be placed in any position along a line extending in one translational dimension across the power transfer surface to simultaneously receive power inductively from the inductive power supply [col. 3 lines 1-10; lines 23-26; col. 4 lines

Art Unit: 2838

40-50]; and further comprising at least one attaching element [col. 8 lines 20-34; lines 52-61], which is independent of the inductive power supply for temporarily releasably attaching the at least two devices to the primary unit in any said position [col. 3 lines 1-10; lines 23-26; col. 4 lines 40-50] along said line such that the at least two devices are simultaneously held on or in proximity to the power transfer surface, said at least one attaching element providing a non-gravitational force [VELCRO and magnets provide the non-gravitational force, col. 8 lines 52-61], acting to resist movement of the at least two devices away from the power transfer surface in a direction substantially orthogonal to that surface, when the at least two devices are attached to the primary unit in any said position along said line [col. 8 lines 20-34 and 52-61].

With respect to dependent claims 18, 21, 23-31, 33-35, 38, 40-41, 73-83, 85-87, and 90-92, Sabo discloses all of the recited limitations as they pertain to using VELCRO, magnetism, etc. to restrain different portable device types to the surface of an inductive charger such that the portable devices can be placed in any orientation on the surface of the charger and still be charged [see entire disclosure and col. 1 lines 25-30, 50-64, col. 3 lines 1-26, col. 4 lines 40-41, col. 8 lines 5-61].

***Allowable Subject Matter***

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art does not teach or suggest the following limitations of independent claims 42 and 93, **"wherein the device comprises at least one attaching element comprising suckers, or a self-adhesive or rubbery surface, disposed on the power transfer surface** which temporarily releasably attaches the device to the primary unit in any said position along said line such that the device is held on or in proximity to the power transfer surface, said attaching element(s) providing a non-gravitational force, acting to resist movement of the device away from the power transfer surface in a direction substantially orthogonal to that surface, when the device is attached to the primary unit in any said position along said line" in combination with the remaining limitations of each claim. Claims 43-44 and 94-95 depend from claims 42 and 43 respectively, and are therefore allowable for the same reasons.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to all claims previously submitted have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection in view of Sabo [U.S. 6,803,744].

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RICHARD V. MURALIDAR whose telephone number is (571)272-8933. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Akm E. Ullah can be reached on 571-272-2361. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Akm Enayet Ullah/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art  
Unit 2838

/Richard V. Muralidar/  
Examiner, GAU 2838  
7/1/2008

